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NEWS

Lower WinPower rates coming to Winchester in December

RACHEL WHITEHOUSE | CORRESPONDENT

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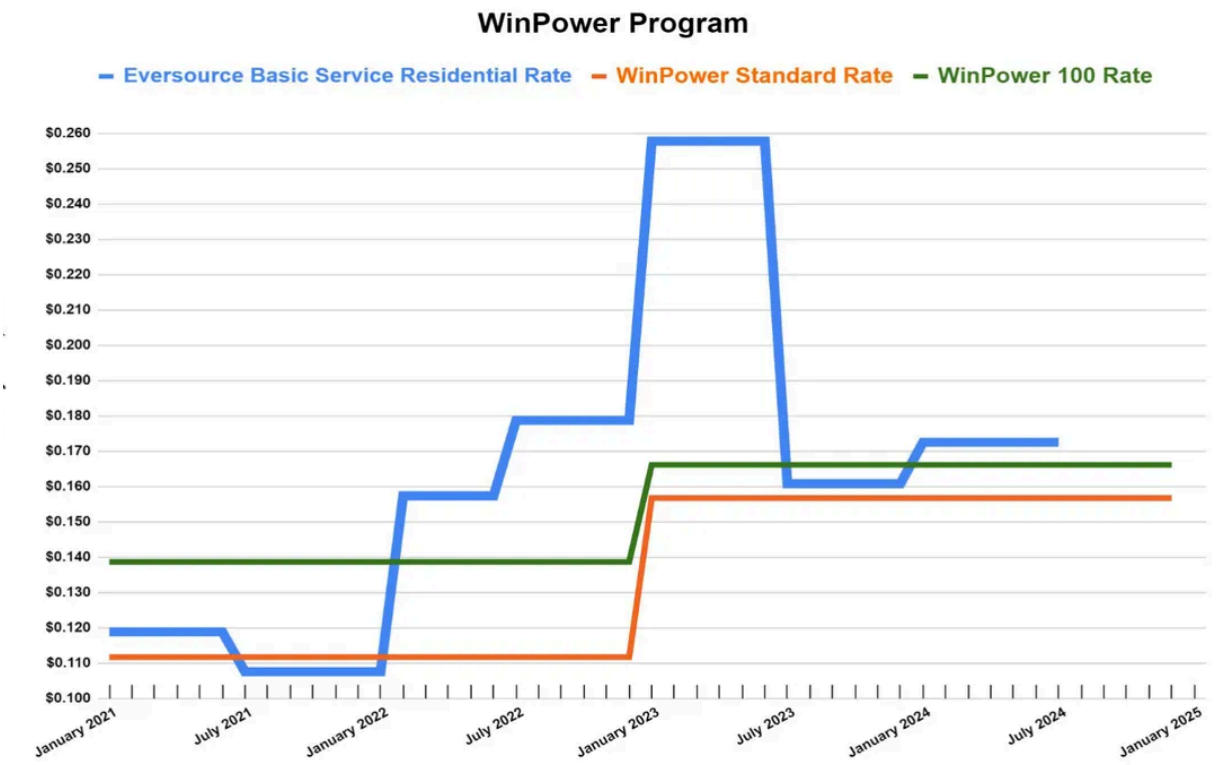

Winchester Sustainability Director Ken Pruitt shared comparative rate data that shows WinPower has collectively saved residents millions of dollars in lower electricity costs over time while delivering significant clean energy. COURTESY PHOTO/KEN PRUITT

Winchester's 2024 Clean Electricity Drive is making headway, wi households now signed up for WinPower 100, and a goal of 1,000

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households by year's end.

Winchester Climate Action Advisory Committee Chair Rick Eno shared this update at Spring Town Meeting while encouraging all residents to opt up to WinPower 100 to help the town achieve its climate goals. WinPower 100 is the Town's electricity product that delivers 100% clean electricity to Winchester residents.

"Opting up to WinPower 100 to receive 100% carbon-free electricity is the fastest, easiest and probably cheapest way to contribute to our town's climate goals," Eno said at Town Meeting. "We strongly encourage Town Meeting members and residents to join our drive for clean electricity and opt up to WinPower 100 now."

Lower WinPower rates on the way

At Town Meeting, Eno said the bottom line is that WinPower 100 is currently just 1 cent more per kWh than the WinPower Standard default rate. Eno said this means the cost for a typical Winchester home to opt up to WinPower 100 is currently about $8.50 a month, and with lower rates starting in December 2024, the added cost should drop to about $3 a month.

Eno announced lower rates are a result of a new three-year contract signed by Town Manager Beth Rudolph with Direct Energy, which also holds the town's current electricity supply contract.

Ken Pruitt, Winchester's sustainability director, said the new contract rates will decrease by about 1.5 to 2 cents per kWh for each of the three WinPower products — Basic: no extra renewable energy; Standard: 25% extra renewable energy; and WinPower 100: 100% clean electricity.

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The benefit of electricity aggregation

Some residents may wonder how the town can supply electricity which meets or exceeds Massachusetts' renewable energy standard and is less expensive than Eversource's Basic electricity supply?

Pruitt said it comes down to the advantage of being an electricity aggregation community.

Winchester is one of 188 Massachusetts communities with a community electricity aggregation program, including neighboring Lexington, Arlington, Medford and Stoneham. Established by Town Meeting in 2017, WinPower pools the purchasing power of Winchester residents to provide households with electricity at competitive prices and with more clean energy compared to Eversource.

"Designed from the start to benefit Winchester, the town operates WinPower without a profit motive, ensuring that all benefits go back to the community," Pruitt said. "We have three advantages that make WinPower successful: a professional aggregation broker who watches the market closely on our behalf, the fact that we can enter into longer (three-year) contracts than Eversource can, and our pooled residential and small business purchasing power. Combined, these tools give us the flexibility and leverage to negotiate more favorable terms."

How does this translate into the clean electricity delivered by WinPower 100?

"Because of our 'aggregator advantage,' we're able to negotiate an impressively low rate on WinPower Basic, which is an apples-to-apples service comparison with Eversource Basic Supply," Pruitt said. "[illegible] when we add in significantly more renewable energy, which is slightly

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more expensive, we still deliver impressive rates, with even WinPower 100 less expensive than Eversource Basic."

Pruitt shared comparative rate data that shows WinPower has collectively saved residents millions of dollars in lower electricity costs over time while delivering significant clean energy.

Eversource Basic Supply is the standard Eversource residential rate, which meets the state's minimum renewable energy standard.

How to opt up to WinPower 100

Residents can opt up in less than 5 minutes by providing their Eversource account number on the Town's WinPower website: www.winpowerma.com. Click on the "Choose WinPower 100" tab, fill out the form, and submit.

Wondering if you are already a WinPower 100 subscriber? Don't worry: submitting a duplicate enrollment is fine. For inquiries, contact Ken Pruitt at kpruitt@winchester.us.

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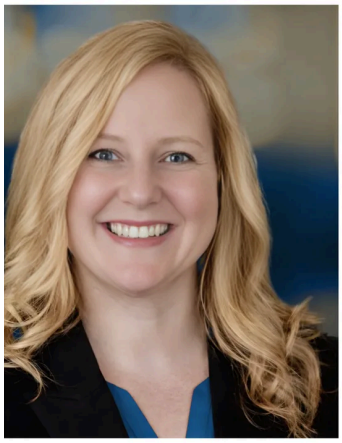

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses

NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for rente

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis

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as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

March 3, 2026

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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